

Catch Up Café



Tippecanoe Valley Middle School is Making it Happen!



WE ARE a 6-8 middle school in rural north-central Indiana. We have 430 students. Our district is a 3A school by IHSA classification. We are the Vikings and we abide by the Viking Way. Vikings "R" responsible, respectful, and ready!

OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES We are 12% Hispanic and have over 55% of our students on free and reduced lunch. The school corporation itself is the largest employer within the district boundaries. Many parents must travel outside of our district for employment.

OUR TEACHERS are "singleton" teachers as we provide one teacher per subject per grade level. We collaborate twice a week for 40 minutes prior to the start of the school day. TVMS has a strong focus on the PLC model and overall improvement through teamwork.

OUR PROMISING PRACTICE is being used to show students the importance of accountability. Students who have missing work for any class are assigned to the Catch Up Café during lunch. They take their tray to the study hall room and have a working lunch. Once the work is completed, they may return to the cafeteria. TVMS teachers maintain a shared list on Google to manage who should be in the Café each day.

OUR STEPS began with the need for accountability within our student body. The ZERO in the gradebook was not the answer. We needed kids to complete skill work and get better! The school improvement team set rules and Mr. Backus, the school principal, aligned the schedule to allow for the study hall rooms to be free over the lunch periods. A Google spreadsheet was created and shared with all of the staff and the Café was born. An average of 700 late/missing assignments were completed each quarter in the Café according to our Google records. The number of failing grades schoolwide decreased as did mandatory summer school enrollment. Our data after year one shows that the Café works! Thanks to Josh Pugh at Knox, we plan to start the 2016-17 school year with a book study of *Brick House* by Danny Hill and look at how to make the Café, and TVMS as a whole, even more effective.

IN OUR OWN WORDS "Students see the Café as both a deterrent to falling behind and a helpful piece when they do fall behind. When the whole staff comes together and shares the belief that all work must be done and no excuse outweighs the responsibility to complete an assigned task, the supportive, high expectation culture we all strive to get is achieved." TVMS Principal Scott Backus